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REPORT

ON THE HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE

BARROW - UPON - SOAR

RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR

1949

PRESENTED TO THE BARROW UPON SOAR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

BY

J. E. LAWRENCE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BARROW-UPON-SOAR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Barrow-upon-Soar Rural District for the Year ended 31st. December, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barrow-upon-Soar Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1939.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers and Staff of the Council for the valuable help they have given me during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:

1. Medical Officer of Health.
   I. B. Lawrence, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H., 133, Loughborough Rd., Leicester.

   (Appointed 1.4.39 succeeding Dr. J.E.O'Connor).

2. Public Vaccinators.
   Dr. J. S. Strachan, Mountsorrel. - Mountsorrel.
   Dr. J. S. Gray, Sileby. - Sileby.
   Dr. J. S. Gray, Sileby. - Barrow-upon-Soar.
   Dr. A. M. Macintosh, Syston. - Syston.

3. Vaccination Officers.
   S. G. Cannell, Quorn.
   A. E. Williams, Syston.

4. Sanitary Inspectors.
   Senior - (No. 1 District) T.A.Eardley, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., 133, Loughborough Road, Leicester.

   (Appointed 10.7.39.)

   (No. 2 District) - G.A.Graves, A.R.San.I., 133, Loughborough Road, Leicester.
   (No. 3 District) - W.Donovan, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., B.Sc. (Inter) 133, Loughborough Road, Leicester.

   Cleansing Superintendent - N.F.Rees, 133, Loughborough Road, Leicester.

   (No. 1 District) G.T.Dean, (Resigned April, 1939).
   (No. 2 District) W.C.H.Curtis (Resigned May, 1939).

Since August 1939 the Area has been divided into three Sanitary Districts and an additional Sanitary Inspector has been appointed.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Figures for 1938 are shown in brackets.

Area - 55,998 acres.	
Resident Population - 41,599 (Registration Sept.29th)	(38,950)
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1939 - 12,874.	(13,500)
Rateable Value - £201, 808.	(£196,904)
Sum represented by a penny rate - £747. 19s. 1d.	(£731)

SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

Chiefly agricultural, but bulk of population centred in several large villages. Staple industries are Boot & Shoes , Hosiery and a Granite Quarry. A number of Parishes are chiefly residential.

VITAL STATISTICS:

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LABORATORY FACILITIES:

Leicestershire County Laboratory.
Leicester City Laboratories.
Since the War - Emergency Ministry of Health Laboratory at Stamford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

Infectious diseases	-	One at Blaby Hospital. One at Melton Hospital.
Tuberculosis cases conveyed by ambulance stationed at Markfield Hospital.		
Non-Infectious diseases	-	Thurmaston St. John Ambulance provided by the Barrow-upon-Soar Rural District Council. Leicester Saturday Hospital Society provide for facilities for members of the working classes.

NURSING IN THE HOME:

Provided by County Council Health Visitors and the District Nurses in larger Parishes.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:

Maternity and child welfare	-	Infant Welfare Centres at Anstey, Barrow-upon-Soar, Birstall, Mountsorrel, Quorn, Rearsby, Rothley, Sileby, Syston, and Thurmaston.
Venereal Disease	-	Leicester Royal Infirmary.
Cancer	-	Nil at present.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY COUNTY COUNCIL:

Tuberculosis	-	Sanatorium and Isolation Hospital Markfield.
Infectious Diseases	-	Sanatorium and Isolation Hospital Markfield. Isolation Hospital, Melton Mowbray. Isolation Hospital, Blaby. Small Pox Hospital, Syston.
Maternity	-	Leicester & Leicestershire Maternity Hospital.
Children	-	Delicate children admitted to Children's Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves.

OTHER HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT:

Leicester Royal Infirmary.
Loughborough General Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER:

Most of the villages have a mains supply either from Leicester Corporation or Loughborough Corporation. Part of Woodhouse is supplied by the Beaumanor Estate Waterworks.

Following a report to the Public Health Committee regarding the Ministry of Health Memorandum on the safeguarding of water supplies, it was agreed that regular monthly sampling of public water supplies should be carried out (one chemical and the remainder bacteriological).

Two workmen who are likely to be employed on water supplies have been examined and special clothing has been purchased.

There are six public supplies from wells in the District, one of these has been closed, another has been padlocked and is only used by farmers, the remainder have shown varying results from analyses.

Some of the monthly samples were missed because of the pressure of war work.

Notices recommending boiling of the water have been placed on the remaining four wells.

RESULTS OF SAMPLES:

PARISH.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Wymeswold.								
(a) Stockwell.	+	-	-	0	+B	-	0	-
(b) London Rd.					-	-	0	+-
Burton-on-the-Wolds.	+	-	-	0	+B	+	0	0
Queniborough.	+C	-	0	0	+	0	0	-
Beeby.	+C	-	0	0	+	0		-
Seagrave.	+B	0	closed					
Walton-on-the-Wolds.	+B	0	padlocked.					

INDEX:

+ ... Contaminated.
C ... Chemical.
- ... Satisfactory.
B ... Bacteriological.

WELLS:

52 samples of well water were analysed and 36 proved unsatisfactory.

19 wells were closed, 14 were cleansed. In 28 cases a pipe supply was substituted for well water. 22 parishes have a pipe supply from the public mains and one from a private reservoir. 8 parishes are without a piped water supply.

No shortage was reported during the year.

SEWERAGE & SEWERAGE DISPOSAL:

At the close of the year there were about 250 cesspools in the District 10 having been abolished, and 4 new ones constructed.

No large extension of sewage or disposal works have been made during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Total Number in district on December 31st:-

(1) Privies	76
(2) Pail Closets	2,596
(3) W.C's.	9,745

No. of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year :-

(a) Privies	5
(b) Pail Closets	172

No. of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year:- nil.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

House refuse is collected by direct labour using Karrier Bantum Lorries, a weekly collection being made from all Parishes.

The disposal is by means of controlled tipping. During the year 8 ashpits have been abolished. Pail closets are emptied by the Council's Contractors and the contents are emptied on the land. The cleansing of cesspools is not undertaken by the Council except in the Parish of Thurmaston. Up to the 31st. of March the weekly collection of house refuse was undertaken by direct labour in 24 Parishes, from the 1st. of April this service was extended to the remaining 7 Parishes. Approximately 12,770 dustbins are emptied every week.

SMOKE ABATEMENT:

The factories and works chimneys in this District have been kept under observation and 27 smoke observations have been made. Action was necessary in 8 cases and informal notices served in each case have resulted in the abatement of such nuisance.

A nuisance caused by dust from a granite crushing works was improved by informal action.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

Total number of complaints received	309.
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	515.
Total number of inspections made	3011.

NOTICES SERVED:

PRELIMINARY	HOUSING	OTHER
Outstanding on 1st. January	19	13
Issued during year	53	166
Complied with during year	47	166
Statutory action necessary	nil	nil
Outstanding 31st. December	25	13

STATUTORY	HOUSING	OTHER
Outstanding on 1st. January	7	nil
Issued during year	26	13
Complied with during year	14	13
Outstanding 31st. December	19	nil

SUMMARY ACTION:

NO. OF SUMMONSES ISSUED	NO. OF CONVICTIONS OBTAINED
Two.	Two.

The two summonses issued for which convictions were obtained were against owners and occupiers of a caravan site being used without a Licence at Thurmaston.

SHOPS:

Four defects found in sanitary conveniences, all of which were remedied.

CAMPING SITES:

7 sites were used for camping and Licenses were issued in respect of 4.

REGULATED BUILDINGS:

REGULATED BUILDINGS	NO. IN DISTRICT	NO. OF INSPECTIONS.	ACTION TAKEN.	GENERAL CONDITIONS.
Common Lodging Houses.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
+Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	10.	58.	Informal.	Notices served.
Canal Boats.	nil.	3.	nil.	nil.
Offensive Trades.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.

+In two cases sites ceased to be used for camping after visited by Sanitary Inspector.

As some of these camps are constituted on the Leicester Corporation Water Shed a close watch has been kept regarding the sanitary conditions.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

No. of Council Houses infested	1
No. of other dwelling houses found infested	2
No. of houses disinfested	3

The methods employed for disinfestation are spraying with Matafli Insecticide; in the more severe cases Contractors are employed for the use of H.C.N.

SCHOOLS:

The Schools in the Barrow-upon-Soar District are on the whole a good average for country schools and some of them are excellent. The water supply has been laid on in most Parishes where a public supply is available. A pipe supply has been recommended for the Queniborough School and the Education Authority has been approached.

2 Schools were disinfected.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS:

None in the District.

H O U S I N G:

Following a letter from the Ministry of Health dated the 5th. of May, 1939, referring to the Housing Enquiry held in the District, the Council resolved that a comprehensive survey of the housing in the whole District to be carried out.

On the 1st. of August I made a report to the Housing Committee stating briefly the number of houses which required inspection, the number of days which could be allotted each week to the work and that it would take about two years to complete the survey. It was pointed out that this was considered a long time without abating any unfit houses and I suggested that a clearance area should be brought up in each of the three areas in rotation, every six months so that the survey could still carry on in the other two areas. Individual unfit houses and repairs will be brought up from time to time the question of providing extra clerical staff if required was mentioned. The report was adopted by the Council.

Unfortunately war has put an end to any extensive Housing Schemes; this is to be regretted in this area because many empty houses which would come into the clearance area have to be brought up as individual unfit houses and the demolition order made to prevent re-letting of such totally unfit houses, also one of our Sanitary Inspectors has joined the Army (1940) and the detailed comprehensive survey has had to be abandoned.

A survey was made on the Housing conditions in the village of Newtown Linford and nine houses were found to be unfit for human habitation. As this village is one of the beauty spots in the District the help of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England was obtained.

The report of their Architect agreed with our findings.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	530
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	900
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932	113
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	216

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 113

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 135

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 98

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEARR:

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-

(a) by owners 1

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-

(a) by owners 1

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 20

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 37

(d) Proceedings under Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING:

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 38

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 39

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 267½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year nil.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 10.
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 68.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

Nil.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Sanitary Inspector may consider it desirable to report.

Nil.

MEAT & OTHER FOODS:

Following on the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 it was decided to draw up an advisory standard to assist the manufacturers of preserved food, icecream, etc. This standard was adopted by the Council.

With regard to the sale of icecream in small shops, the following standard was asked for :-

(1) Installation of an efficient icecream refrigerator.
(2) Use of pasteurised or sterilized milk in the cold mix for the manufacture of icecream.

Under these conditions clean shops can reasonably be registered.

Three underground rooms were found to be unsuitable for the manufacture of preserved food.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

(a) Milk Supply:-

COWKEEPERS.

No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions.			
		Outstanding from Previous year.	Found during year	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on December 31st.
280	342	14	73	68	19

DAIRYMEN OR PURVEYORS OF MILK
(other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register.	No. of inspections	No. of Contraventions.			
		Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on Dec. 31st.
170	110	-	5	5	-

TOTAL CONTRAVENTIONS.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year	Outstanding on December 31st.
Cleansing	9	55	52	11
Structural alterations	3	20	16	7
Utensils	1	4	4	1
Other	-	1	1	-
	13	78	73	19

MILK SAMPLING

Class	Total number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory.
Designated	nil.	-	-
Ordinary	51	46	5

Cowsheds and dairies visited and advice given regarding methods of improvement.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 & 1938:

Licences issued by Local Authorities:-

No. of Licences issued in respect of								
"Tuberculin Tested"			"Accredited"			"Pasteurised"		
Bottling	Distribution Dealers	Distribution Supplementary	Bottling	Distribution Dealers	Distribution Supplementary	Pasteurising plants.	Retail Dealers	Dist. Supplementary
-	- -	2	-	1	1	-	-	1

MEAT & OTHER FOODS:

No. of public abattoirs in district nil

Private slaughter houses:-

	In Jan.1939	In Dec.1939
No. registered	19	-
No. licensed	9	28

No. of visits to premises other than at times of slaughter 52

No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter 1,524

No. of knacker yards in district 2

No. of visits to knackers yards 23

Meat Stalls:-

No. of inspections nil.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, Etc.

No. of inspections 261

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections 230

No action has been taken.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs.
No. killed (if known)	1634	-	167	4152	991	- approx.
Number inspected	1191	-	131	3361	835	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	-	2	-	-	-	1052 lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	8	13	2	16	1	729 lbs.
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	1.4%	2.4%	.19%	.57%	.25%	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	-	1202 lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	14	27	1	-	28	1481 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	2.4%	4.5%	1.2%	-	6.5%	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Diphtheria has been quite prevalent in the District, especially affecting the village of Syston, 32 cases had occurred up to November when immunisation was commenced. The prophylactic used was T.A.F. (B & W) three doses of 1 c.c. with at least a fortnight's interval.

No. of children of pre-school age immunised: 165
No. of children of school age immunised: 501

Percentage of Children Immunised:

Under school age	-	60%
Infants School	-	73.5%
Juniors School	-	80%
Seniors School	-	75.4%

These numbers constitute about 75% of the total children of school age.

Only one case of measles was notified up to the end of the year, no measles serum has been used.

There are, at present, no arrangements for typing of pneumococci.

A small outbreak of enteritis occurred at Seagrave affecting chiefly school children (14). Suspicion fell on pork pies but this could not be proved. Samples were submitted to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Stamford.

Details of laboratory examinations for the District are as follows :-

Swabs for diphtheria	438
Milk examinations (bacteriological)	260
Sputa for T.B.	124
Sewage & Water analyses	87
Urine (general & bacteriological)	24
Urine for T.B.	15
Hair for ringworm	8
Widal tests for typhoid fever	8
Blood for Wassermann Test	5
Films for gonococci	4
Differential blood counts	2
Milk for fat content	2
Miscellaneous	3
Total	980

The number of infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) notified in this area during the year 1939 are given below :-

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		
Scarlet Fever.	-	1	1	3	3	17	12	1	3	1	-	-	36	1
Diphtheria.	-	-	1	5	3	16	30	7	6	1	1	-	69	6
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia.	1	1	1	2	-	4	3	1	6	8	9	7	-	17
Measles.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	2	2	2	2	5	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	2	7	2	2	-
Poliomeyelitis.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS:

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from this disease in this area during 1939 are given below.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-								
1-			1	1				1
5-	3	1	1	2				
15-	2	3	1	3				2
25-	4	5			1	2		
35-	2			1	1	1		
45-		1		1	3			
55-	1				2			
65-								
TOTALS:	12	10	3	8	7	3		3

All tuberculosis deaths had been previously notified. The notification in the District is, on the whole, very satisfactory.

EVACUATION:

9,000 children were expected to arrive in the District on six trains each holding about 750 children. Four trains at Quorn Station and two trains at Loughborough.

This was to be repeated on the second day, however only 1,292 arrived.

In view of the large numbers, extra help for medical examination was obtained, two general practitioners kindly offered their services and the County Council provided a Medical Officer, a Dentist, and five Health Visitors. At Woodhouse the help of the Local First Aid Personnel was given and at Loughborough the Y.W.C.A. kindly lent us their Hall in which to examine the children. Temporary sanitary accommodation was provided by our Sanitary Inspectors. First Aid Dressings were supplied in case of accidents.

Lists were made out of all houses where cases of infectious disease had recently occurred including tuberculosis and no evacuees were allowed to be billeted at these houses.

Owing to the expected large numbers and the frequency of the trains it was decided that examination of heads should be left and done later at the Schools, otherwise quite a thorough examination was made.

The following is a list of conditions found.

8 Impetigo.	1 Knee abrasion, slight anthritis.
1 Scabies Contact.	1 Rickets.
1 Injured Wrist.	1 Eczema.
2 Boils.	1 Discharging ears.
4 Sores.	1 Discharging nose.
1 Observation Spots.	2 Fractured arm.
1 Inflamed Throat.	1 Pregnant.
1 Epistaxis.	

The list of defects was given to the respective Health Visitors who visited the evacuees regularly during the first week or so. With regard to dirty heads, only a few cases were reported to me, but I understand quite a number of hostesses treated the children themselves and others were treated by the School Nurses.

After evacuation the chief complaints we received were with regard to bed wetting and (?) mentally deficient children.

Pamphlets were obtained about bed wetting and these together with waterproof sheets were issued to the Billeting Officers. The persistent cases were removed to one of the Public Assistance Hospitals after having obtained consent of the parents.

At the second evacuation 120 children were expected and only 43 arrived. These were a big improvement on the first exodus but unfortunately a case of diphtheria was discovered among the children, the child was sent to the Isolation Hospital and all contacts, including a brother and sister, from the same railway carriage were removed for isolation to a Convalescent Home. No further case developed.

---oOo---

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

I.B.LAWRENCE.

(Since 1st. April).